

# Fairfield's leader of economic development to take new job

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Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD —

The person at the helm of economic development since 1987 in Fairfield will retire next month to take a new role with REDI Cincinnati.

Tim Bachman, Fairfield's director of development services, will retire effective Sept. 8, according to the city. He began working with the city just weeks after graduating from the University of Cincinnati in 1985. He was promoted to director two years later.

Bachman will take his 31 years of experience to his new role as the Senior Manager of Business Development and Project Management for REDI Cincinnati beginning a few days after his retirement on Sept. 12.

Economic Development Manager Greg Kathman will be named interim development services director on Sept. 9.

The projects Bachman said he is most proud of are the developments of Village Green, the Fairfield Town Center and building a corporate community in the city over the past three decades.

"I have witnessed and been fortunate to be part of many great things as Fairfield has matured," said Bachman, 54. "I am especially proud of the support we have given to the business community and citizens by ensuring an economic environment where they can prosper and profit."

Bachman has certifications from the American Institute of Certified Planners and the National Development Council, and is a member of the American Planning Association, Ohio Planning Conference, Urban Land Institute and the International Economic Development Council. In 2005 he was honored with the Greater Cincinnati Public Service award.

The group Bachman and the city administration has put in the development services department is "a good, experienced team," said Kathman.

"I think all of us here have mixed emotions, and sad to see him go, but we're excited that he has this new opportunity in front of him," he said.

Fairfield City Councilman Bill Woeste, who's been on the city's planning commission for the past five years, said Bachman should also place Veritiv on the list of accomplishments. Veritiv is in the process of relocating its operations center from Clermont County to Butler County, which includes more than 400 existing jobs.

"Certainly Tim's been a constant professional," Woeste said. "That's not only with the employees here in the city, but with the customer base, which includes the industrial base and commercial base here in Fairfield."

Woeste said the city will lose a valuable piece to the senior leadership in the city, which includes decades of institutional knowledge.

"Tim was 100 percent Fairfield all the time and I think that made a difference," he said.

Fairfield City Manager Mark Wendling said Bachman "will be sorely missed."

"Tim has led our economic development with the highest level of expertise and integrity," Wendling said. "His dedication to the planning and growth of Fairfield's corporate and residential development has been a paramount part of the city's success."

REDI Cincinnati President Johnna Reeder said she's "thrilled" to have an award-winning public servant join her team.

"His extensive experience in project management, process improvement and local government affairs will add significant value to our regional economic development efforts," she said.

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